

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 136888

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SCUL, PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: CHINA STARS SONG ENSEMBLE

REF: TAIPEI 3966

1. WE HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING WITH FRIED, ATTORNEY FOR ORIENTAL MELODIES, THAT CHINA STARS SONG ENSEMBLE WILL CANCEL SCHEDULED NY PERFORMANCES AND PLAN TO ARRIVE IN US IN TIME TO APPEAR IN BOSTON BEGINNING JULY 14 (WU SHU GROUP SCHEDULED TO DEPART US JULY 14). FRIED REQUESTED THAT GROUP BE ALLOWED TO ARRIVE IN US SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE JULY 14 TO ALLOW TIME FOR REST AND REHEARSAL. WE REPLIED THAT ARRIVAL OF CHINA STARS GROUP WHILE WU SHU GROUP IS STILL IN COUNTRY CREATES NO PROBLEM PROVIDED TAIWAN GROUP SCHEDULES NO PUBLIC FUNCTIONS OR PERFORMANCES BEFORE

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JULY 14. ASSUMING MEMBERS OF GROUP OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE,

YOU MAY THEREFORE INFORM THEM THAT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED FOR TRAVEL AFTER JULY 10. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SOLUTION IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR ASSURANCE TO PRCLO (STATE 133214) THAT CHINA STARS WOULD NOT PERFORM IN US WHILE WU SHU TROUPE WAS IN US.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT IF ANY CONTRIBUTION GROC MADE TO THIS SETTLEMENT. GROC INSTRUCTIONS TO ROC CONSULATE GENERAL IN NY AND EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL) APPARENTLY SIMPLY REITERATED GROC POSITION THAT DELAY IN DEPARTURE OF CHINA STARS GROUP RESULTED SOLELY FROM UNILATERAL US DECISION TO WITHHOLD VISAS. ACCORDING TO ROC EMBASSY, MOFA CABLE DID INSTRUCT ROC CONGEN IN NY TO "PACIFY" CHINA STARS GROUP SPONSORS THERE. WE ARE THEREFORE PREPARED TO GIVE GROC BENEFIT OF DOUBT AND CREDIT ITS "PACIFYING" EFFORT FOR CHINA STARS SPONSORS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN REARRANGING SCHEDULE.

3. FACT REMAINS HOWEVER THAT COOPERATION WAS BETWEEN USG AND GROUP'S AMERICAN SPONSORS. WE HAD ASSUMED THAT GROC WOULD SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELAY, CONFIRMING OUR ASSERTION THAT USG AND GROC AGREED IT WAS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE PRC AND ROC CULTURAL GROUPS APPEARING HERE SIMULTANEOUSLY. WE WERE THEREFORE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED THAT BOTH AMBASSADOR SHEN AND CONSUL GENERAL SHAH CATEGORICALLY DENIED TO US AND TO SPONSORS THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY CHANGE IN GROC POSITION THAT SOLE REASON FOR DELAY IN CHINA STARS GROUP'S ARRIVAL WAS USG UNWILLINGNESS TO ISSUE VISAS. FROM CONVERSATIONS WE HAD WITH SPONSORS IT APPEARS THAT CONSUL GENERAL SHAH MAY EVEN HAVE GONE BEYOND GROC POSITION THAT IT CANNOT CONTROL PRIVATE GROUPS TO STATE THAT IT WILL NOT DO SO.

4. NEEDLESS TO SAY WE MUST WORK OUT PROCEDURES WHICH WILL PREVENT THIS KIND OF INCIDENT FROM ARISING AGAIN. WE HAVE IN MIND STEPS WE CAN TAKE HERE TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE INFORMED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE PLANNING STAGE THAT TAIWAN GROUP IS SCHEDULING TOUR. WE BELIEVE

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THERE ARE ALSO WAYS CONSISTENT WITH SECURITY REQUIREMENTS TO KEEP GROC BETTER INFORMED ON US PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. BUT NONE OF THESE MEASURES WILL BE EFFECTIVE UNLESS GROC IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN AVOIDING SIMULTANEOUS PERFORMANCES ANYWHERE IN US (EVEN IF IN DIFFERENT CITIES) BY OFFICIAL OR "PRIVATE" ROC AND PRC GROUPS. WE ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERING ANOTHER APPROACH TO THE GROC TO SEEK UNDERSTANDING THAT

THEY WILL NOT APPROVE ANY US TOUR BY TAIWAN CULTURAL GROUPS UNTIL THEY HAVE CONSULTED WITH US AND CONFIRMED THERE WILL BE NO CONFLICT. WE ARE AWARE OF GROC POSITION THAT IT CANNOT CONTROL PRIVATE GROUPS. GIVEN THE PASSPORT AND EXIT PERMIT PROCEDURES IN FORCE ON TAIWAN, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT POSITION. REQUEST EMBASSY COMMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUSIC, POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ITINERARY, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE136888
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RWSULLIVAN:BDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740167-0614
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740614/aaaaalr.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: TAIPEI 3966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <16 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINA STARS SONG ENSEMBLE
TAGS: CVIS, SCUL, PFOR, TW, CH, CHINA STARS SONG ENSEMBLE, WU SHU TROUPE
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005